FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 AUGUST 1984

Israel

The Alignment leader Shim'on Peres and the Likud leader Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir have agreed upon the formation of a national unity government, Jerusalem radio reported. According to the agreement, Peres will be prime minister and Shamir will be deputy prime minister and foreign minister for the first 25 months, after which time the positions reverse for another 25 months. The Alignment's Yitzhaq Rabin will be defense minister and a Likud member will be finance minister for entire period. The 24-member Cabinet will be equally divided between the two blocs, the distribution of which will be discussed by the two leaders on 31 August, the radio added.

Reacting to this development, the leaders of the MAPAM faction of the Alignment will recommend that their party dissolve their coalition with Peres' Labor Party, the radio noted. The leaders of the MAPAM-affiliated United Kibbutz Movement also decided to oppose the agreement.

Maghreb

French Diplomacy — French President Francois Mitterrand and Moroccan King Hassan II held a meeting at Ifrane Palace, Paris radio reported citing Moroccan sources. Mitterrand's "surprise trip" was described as "private," the radio added. Meanwhile, French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson ended a 2-day visit to Algeria following a meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Algiers radio reported. Talks had centered on current major problems, particularly "economic disorder," the radio added. Cheysson then departed for Tunis, where he was welcomed by his Tunisian counterpart Beji Caid Essebsi, Tunis radio noted. Talks during his 3-day visit will center on bilateral and international problems. Cheysson also plans to meet in Tunis with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the radio disclosed.

Algeria-Syria — Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Algiers on a visit, during which he will deliver a message to Bendjedid from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio reported.

Morocco-Libya — King Hassan II will pay an "official visit" to Libya at the beginning of September, according to Arab diplomatic sources in Rabat cited by KUNA.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq opposition group claimed that the pilot of the Iranian F-4 plane flown to Iraq was a "well-known" Air Force officer and a member of their group, AFP reported. Tehran radio stated that the "stolen" military aircraft was taken as part of the "propaganda program designed by world arrogance" and the Iraqi regime. The detention in Iraq of passengers of the recently hijacked Iranian airliner, "despite the protests of international legal bodies," was also a part of the "propaganda conspiracy," the radio added.

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The final session in the third round of UN-sponsored indirect talks on Afghanistan ended in Geneva, Karachi radio reported. The talks, which had begun on 27 August, "ended in failure," according to "sources close to one of the delegations" cited by AFP.

In a separate development, the Afghan commander responsible for security posts around Kabul defected along with 3,000 militiamen to the mujahidin, Karachi radio reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 171 *31 August 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Soviet Troops Reportedly To Deploy Near Pakistan *[AFP]* ..... C 1
Karachi: Soviet Intelligence Interrogating Mujahidin ..... C 1
Karachi: 3,000 Afghan Troops Join Mujahidin ..... C 1
Karachi: Final Session of UN-Sponsored Talks Held ..... C 1
No Official Results Announced *[AFP]* ..... C 1
Karmal Greets Ceausescu on National Day *[Bucharest SCINTEIA 28 Aug]* ..... C 2
Kabul Roundup of Operations Against Rebels ..... C 2

INDIA

Spokesman on Arrests of Akali Dal Workers ..... E 1
200 Arrested for Picketing in Hyderabad ..... E 1
Indira Gandhi's Message to Nicolae Ceausescu *[Bucharest SCINTEIA 28 Aug]* ..... E 1
SFRY President Ends 3-Day State Visit ..... E 1
Rajya Sabha Adjournment Ends Parliament Session ..... E 1

PAKISTAN

Yaqub Khan Urges UN Action on Afghan Provocations ..... F 1
Editorial Condemns Airspace Violations *[NAWA-E WAQT 20 Aug]* ..... F 1
Ziaul Haq Meets With Visiting Maldives Official ..... F 1
Indian Pressure for Trials of Hijackers Cited *[London BBC World Service]* ..... F 2
DAWN Condemns Laying of Mines in Suez, Red Sea *[18 Aug]* ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH

Government 'Determined' To Hold Fair Elections ..... G 1
Choudhury on Efforts To Solve Border Fence Issue ..... G 1

NEPAL

Soviet Official's Remarks on Afghanistan Cited *[AFP]* ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

Delhi Reports Optimism After All-Party Talks ..... G 2
Terrorist Group's Plan To Attack Cities Revealed ..... G 2

IRAN

Foreign Ministry Statement on Airbus Hijacking ..... I 1
Release of Aircraft Demanded ..... I 1
Hijacked Passengers Safe ..... I 1
Efforts at Release Continue ..... I 1
Passengers Used for Propaganda ..... I 1
Majlis Speaker on Hijacking ..... I 2
Military Aircraft Taken to Iraqi Territory ..... I 2
AFP: Pilot Defector Identified ..... I 2

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,835 ..... I 2
Volunteers From Several Areas Head for Fronts ..... I 3
Montazeri Receives Commerce Minister, Officials ..... I 3
Saudi Harrassment of Iranian Sunni Clergy Noted ..... I 4
Paper Criticizes Egyptian Gulf Peace Plan *[SOBH-E AZADEGAN]* ..... I 4
KAYHAN on Moscow's Attitude Toward Government *[London KAYHAN 9 Aug]* ..... I 4

Soviet Troops Reportedly To Deploy Near Pakistan
BK301606 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 30 (AFP) — Some 40,000 Soviet and Afghan troops will be deployed to seal off the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan during the next four weeks, the English language newspaper *THE MUSLIM* said here today. The move is aimed at cutting off supply lines from Pakistan to rebel forces in Afghanistan, the newspaper reported quoting reliable Afghan sources. The report said the soldiers will be deployed in the provinces of Qandahar, Paktia and Nangarhar, which border Pakistan. *THE MUSLIM* added that "thousands of Soviet soldiers" had already been sent from the Soviet Union as reinforcements for an operation of unprecedented size.

Western diplomatic sources here have not confirmed the report, although diplomats have said that from 12,000 to 14,000 Soviet troops are at Gardez, the capital of Paktia, apparently to take part in a major offensive against opponents of the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

The sources said they were unaware of any imminent military deployment in the two other provinces. Resistance spokesmen at [words indistinct] could not confirm today's newspaper report but said it was possible the Soviet forces would mount a major offensive along the Pakistan border before winter.

Soviet and Afghan military activity has steadily increased in the frontier regions with Pakistan since the start of the year, Western military experts said. Last week in particular Pakistan accused Afghan fighters and artillery of killing 50 people — mainly Afghans — in the Tori-Mangal sector.

Habibullah Karzai, resistance spokesman in Quetta, said Soviet troops had been fighting a guerrilla war for two or three months against rebel convoys arriving from Pakistan. He said this fighting was taking place between the border and Qandahar in southern Afghanistan. "They try night time ambushes against the mujahidin (rebels) but it will be very difficult for them to seal the border," he said.

Various routes back into Afghanistan are said to be hazardous for the rebels, according to sources familiar with the territory. The Rigestan desert in the south is difficult because of the configuration of the terrain and constant Soviet surveillance. Routes through Konar and Nuristan in the north east are blocked by snow for six months in the winter and are also closely watched by Soviet and Afghan forces.

Resistance spokesmen at Peshawar have also said they suspect the Soviet Union of allowing pro-Iranian Shi'ite rebels to receive supplies from Iran. They believe these Shi'ite forces reinforce pro-Iranian groups in the region west of Kabul who attack the Sunni rebels, who are supplied from Pakistan.

Diplomatic observers in Islamabad have noted the Kabul government has made frequent references to outside interference in Afghan affairs, and they said that the Red Army could now be (?trying) to isolate the anti-Soviet rebels within Afghanistan.

Karachi: Soviet Intelligence Interrogating Mujahidin
BK311034 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Western diplomatic sources quoting reports from Afghanistan say, for the first time, the Soviet intelligence are personally interrogating Afghan mujahidin with the increase of the Kremlin's administrative and policymaking role in that country. According to reports based on interviews with the Afghan mujahidin who were imprisoned in jails in Afghanistan and later succeeded in escaping, the Soviet intelligence network, KGB, previously had left the job of interrogation to Afghan officials. With continued shooting among the factions of the Afghan communists and frequent defections of Afghan officials, the Soviets have been left with no choice but to plant their own men on sensitive posts. The sources described increasing Soviet involvement at all levels in Afghanistan as a desperate attempt to ensure Communist rule until enough reliable Soviet-trained Afghan cadres can be installed. The sources add that together with the Russian-trained Afghans, the Soviets have been growing increasingly effective in intelligence operations since last year.

Karachi: 3,000 Afghan Troops Join Mujahidin
BK310222 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] According to reports received from across the border, the commanding officer in charge of security posts, Ghulam Hassan Khan Karokhoi, along with 3,000 armed militiamen, has joined the Mujahidin. Ghulam Hassan Khan was responsible for the defense of posts in the eastern and northeastern sector of the Kabul city.

Karachi: Final Session of UN-Sponsored Talks Held
BK301536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] The final formal session of the UN-sponsored indirect talks on Afghanistan was held in Geneva today. During the session, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, held three meetings with the Pakistani delegation and one meeting with the delegation of the Karmal administration in Afghanistan. The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN reports from Geneva that Cordovez is expected to meet the two delegations at their respective missions before releasing a formal statement on the talks.

No Official Results Announced
BK301515 Hong Kong AFP in English 1454 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] Geneva, Aug 30 (AFP) — Indirect talks between Pakistani and Afghan representatives, with a senior United Nations official acting as mediator, concluded here today, U.N. officials announced. Sources close to one of the delegations said this third round of talks [words indistinct] ended in failure, although no official results have been announced. The discussions, which began Monday, are part of a United Nations effort to (?secure)

[word indistinct] withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, where they have been aiding government forces fighting Moslem rebels, and to resolve the situation of Afghan refugees who have fled into Pakistan.

The U.N. mediator, Under Secretary General for Political Affairs Diego Cordovez, was to meet with an Iranian delegation before holding a press conference tomorrow with Pakistani foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his Afghan counterpart Mohammad Dost.

Karmal Greets Ceausescu on National Day
AU301519 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 28 Aug 84 p 4

[Report on greetings telegram sent by Babrak Karmal, People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan general secretary and president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, to President Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general, on occasion of Romanian national day]

[Text] To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania:

On the 40th anniversary of the victory of the 1944 anti-imperialist People's Revolution, the national day of the fraternal Romanian people's liberation, I extend most cordial congratulations and comradely greetings to you, and through you to the RCP Central Committee, the State Council, and all people of the Socialist Republic of Romania, on behalf of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], the Revolutionary Council, and the militant people of the Democratic Republic of Afgnanistan [DRA].

The historic revolution of 23 August 1944 marked a turning point in Romania's glorious history and the beginning of profound revolutionary changes which paved the way for the victorious advance of the Soviet Red Army against Hitlerite fascism and for the armed insurrection of the patriotic and antifascist forces in Romania.

As a result of this great victory, the military-fascist dictatorship was overthrown and new bright horizons opened up for the Romanian people along the road to building the prosperous socialist society. In the last 40 years, the fraternal Romanian people, under the leadership of their revolutionary vanguard, the RCP, have attained outstanding successes in building socialism and in attaining their high revolutionary aspirations.

Under current circumstances, the telegram reads, the efforts of the Socialist Republic of Romania and other socialist countries, primarily the great Soviet Union, play a very important part in consolidating world peace, normalizing the international situation, and preventing a nuclear catastrophe.

The telegram further reads:

The friendly people of Socialist Romania celebrate the victory of their glorious revolution at a time when the free and revoluionary people of Afganistan are celebrating on their ancient land the 65th anniversary of their independence and struggle to strengthen and defend revolutionary achievements, on the one hand, and to raise the overall production level, on the other, in honor of the forthcoming 20th anniversary of the creation of the PDPA.

Our country's working people are very grateful for the internationalist solidarity of all revolutionary forces in the world, primarily the great Soviet Union, the historical friend of the Afghan people. Our people are also consolidating their revolutionary achievements and are winning new victories.

We are happy that the friendly relations between our countries and peoples, based on the general principles of revolutionary practice and international solidarity, continue to consolidate and develop.

Allow me to again congratulate you on the 40th anniversary of the victory of the antifascist and anti-imperialist revolution for social and national liberation, and I wish the fraternal Romanian people ever greater victories in in plementing the decisions of the 13th RCP Congress and in fulfilling the 1981-85 5-Year Plan.

With warm revolutionary greetings,

Babrak Karmal, PDPA Central Committee general secretary and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA of Afghanistan

Kabul Roundup of Operations Against Rebels
LD301906 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that as a result of the recent successful operations by the country's security forces in Balkh Province, 47 counterrevolutionaries were captured, and a quantity of various weapons and 16 tons of wheat were seized from these criminals by the security forces.

Another report says that as a result of the successful operations by the country's security forces in Vardak Province a number of the rebels were captured, and a quantity of weapons and ammunition including rocket launchers, DShK's, antitank and antipersonnel mines, and a large quantity of ammunition with documents proving the enemy's links with mercenary bands abroad were seized by the security forces.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that as a result of the successful operations in Paktia Province by the country's security forces, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and a quantity of weapons was seized. Five DShK's, two mortars, and one recoilless gun were destroyed.

Another report says as a result of operations by the vigilant security forces in Qandahar Province a number of weapons was seized.

Spokesman on Arrests of Akali Dal Workers

BK301607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] In Punjab, with the detention of some more Akali Dal workers, the total number of such arrest has risen to over 750. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the detentions have been in apprehension of breach of peace.

200 Arrested for Picketing in Hyderabad

BK310908 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] About 200 volunteers belonging to different opposition parties were arrested in Hyderabad today for picketing before government offices in violation of the prohibitory orders.

Reports of similar arrests have been received from other towns in Andhra Pradesh.

The volunteers were demanding, among others, immediate convening of the state assembly.

Indira Gandhi's Message to Nicolae Ceausescu

AU301412 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 28 Aug 84 p 4

[Text] To His Excellency Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the Government, the people of India, and on my own behalf I convey to you warm greetings on the happy occasion of Romania's National Day.

Our bilateral relations have made steady progress. May these relations further strengthen and diversify in the years to come.

With the best wishes for your health and well-being and prosperity for the Romanian people

Indira Gandhi, prime minister of the Republic of India

SFRY President Ends 3-Day State Visit

BK300959 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] The Yugoslav president, Mr Veselin Djuranovic, left for Belgrade today after a 3-day state visit to this country. He was given a warm send-off at the Bangalore airport by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr R.N. Mirdha, the Karnataka governor, Mr A.N. Banerjee, the chief minister, Mr Ramkrishna Hegde, and other senior officials. The ambassadors of the two countries were also present.

Rajya Sabha Adjournment Ends Parliament Session

BK300753 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] The monsoon session of parliament ended with the Rajya Sabha adjourning sine die yesterday. The Lok Sabha had adjourned sine die on Monday.

Yaqub Khan Urges UN Action on Afghan Provocations

BK310342 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Pakistan has urged the UN secretary general to ask the Kabul authorities to desist forthwith from provocations and attacks against Pakistan territory. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in a letter to Mr Perez de Cuellar referred to the bombardment and shelling of Pakistani border villages on 13, 14, 18, 19, 21, and 23 August. He pointed out that Pakistan has exercised restraint in face of frequent attacks. He said Pakistan had hoped that its repeated warnings and expressions of international concern about Kabul's aggressive acts would serve to restrain the Kabul authorities from pursuing this dangerous course. But, its hopes had been belied by the latest escalations.

The foreign minister said that the Kabul authorities, having been frustrated in their effort to contain resistance in Afghanistan, seem to be deliberately seeking to divert people's attention. He added that Pakistan is determined to safeguard its political independence and territorial integrity and reserves the right to take necessary self-defense measures should the Kabul authorities fail to desist from their wanton aggression.

He reiterated that the essential condition of a just and honorable resolution to the Afghanistan crisis was the withdrawal of foreign forces from that country.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that Pakistan has supported every international endeavor for solving the Afghanistan problem. Pakistan has fully supported the diplomatic efforts of the UN secretary general for a comprehensive settlement. He said the fact that the Kabul administration has chosen to escalate acts of aggression on the eve of talks in Geneva has raised doubts about its sincerity in finding a just and comprehensive resolution to the problem.

The foreign minister's letter has been issued as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Editorial Condemns Airspace Violations

GF251150 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 20 Aug 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Only Resort Is Strengthening of Defense"]

[Excerpts] A serious violation of Pakistan's airspace has been committed by Babrak Karmal's Air Force in the Parachinar area. This violation started 2 days ago and is still going on despite an official protest and threat of grave consequences by Pakistan. These violations have actually increased and bombs have been dropped in the Parachinar area along with artillery shelling by the Afghans. This is the first instance of such operations by the Afghan land forces.

These operations and border violations by the Kabul government are not only serious but also instigatory, happening at a time when indirect talks are scheduled to be held on the Afghanistan issue under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva. The status of the Karmal government is known to the world, and it can therefore be unequivocally stated that these operations have been carried out on Soviet instructions and with Soviet participation and that the operations are the result of the Karmal government's assumption that Pakistan cannot tackle a superpower like the Soviet Union. This incident also indicates that one cannot believe in the Soviet assurances of withdrawal of its troops or of a political solution to the Afghan question under the aegis of the United Nations which the Soviet Union called "a step in the right direction."

If Pakistani and Soviet strength were on a par, Pakistan would have retaliated against this overt violation and provocative attitude with similar measures, and this state of affairs would have been nipped in the bud. The problem is not limited to border violations by the Afghans with Soviet collusion and participation, but also extends to the belligerent intentions of the Soviet Union's ally India on the eastern borders and the concomitant dangers. The massing of Indian forces in occupied Kashmir are a tangible threat, but now troops are being stationed in the Punjab sector as well on the pretext of quelling the Sikhs. Even in ordinary circumstances, the Indian rulers continue to voice threats and implicate Pakistan in any internal situation for which they themselves are responsible.

The fundamental issue is one of Pakistan's defense and strength. Pakistan cannot wage a war with the Soviet Union and genuinely wants cordial relations with India, but it cannot bow down and accept as legitimate the Soviet and Indian proposal of according recognition to the Karmal government. This would negate the principled stance of the nonaligned and Islamic countries, as well as the stance of the majority of the UN members.

Although the United States is bound by its 1959 treaty obligations to assist Pakistan in the event of communist aggression or communist-backed aggression, the U.S. attitude is no secret. Pakistan is not laboring under the delusion that the United States will fulfill its obligations under the agreement.

Under these circumstances, Pakistan has no choice but to resist succumbing to provocation and instigation and to remain aloof while it simultaneously prepares for extensive consolidation of its defenses and the preservation of its territorial integrity and independence. As far as the strengthening of its Armed Forces is concerned, we should concentrate on the fact that we are making the most of what we have and that we will continue to consolidate. It is also necessary, however, to reinforce another front — that of internal national unity — if we are to boost faith and confidence. This is the front which should be made firm and stable as soon as possible so that the whole nation will become a wall reinforced with lead against any form of external aggression and so it will be clear to the enemy that Pakistan is a freedom-loving and honorable nation willing to make every sacrifice to defend its freedom and territorial integrity.

Ziaul Haq Meets With Visiting Maldives Official

BK301605 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] Maldives [Provincial Affairs] Minister Abdulla Hameed and Foreign Secretary Ibrahim Hussain Shafi called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. Dur-

ing the meeting, they exchanged views on matters of common interest as well as bilateral relations. The Maldives minister delivered a letter from Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom to the president of Pakistan, inviting him to visit the Maldives on the occasion of the inauguration of Maldives' principal mosque and an Islamic center. The inauguration ceremony will take place during the 16th anniversary celebrations marking the Maldives' independence.

Indian Pressure For Trials of Hijackers Cited

BK310356 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Alex Brodie report from Islamabad)

[Text] Pakistan has announced that it will shortly put on trial the two groups of Sikhs from India involved in the hijacking of airliners. It said it was doing this because of Indian criticism of the way Pakistan has handled the incidents. Alex Brodie reports from Islamabad:

[Begin recording] The acting foreign secretary of Pakistan, Mr Abdul Sattar, said that Pakistan had avoided putting the Sikh hijackers on trial before because it was feared that their statements in court would have inflamed and aggravated India-Pakistan relations. But, he said, since India has made a point of protesting about the fact the hijackers had not been tried, Pakistan has decided to go ahead and try them. Dates would be announced later. One group of hijackers has been in jail since 1981. The second group was arrested earlier in July this year. After last week's hijack when the hijackers landed in Pakistan and then flew on to Dubayy, the Indian ambassador here, Mr K.D. Sharma, accused Pakistan of several mistakes. One of his complaints was by not putting already arrested hijackers on public trial, Pakistan was encouraging others. Mr Sharma's remarks greatly offended the Pakistani Government. Pakistani officials have been asking with an air of (?injured) innocence, why India changed its attitude to Pakistan so suddenly when 2 or 3 months ago relations seems cordial. Some newspapers ask why India seems determined to sour relations with the cancellation of a scheduled meeting of foreign secretaries and continuing accusations of helping Sikhs and Kashmiris without, said the papers, a shred of evidence. It said foreign diplomats also seem baffled. It is understood that at a recent gathering of Commonwealth ambassadors, the Indian ambassador's constant complaints about Paksitan received no support. [end recording].

DAWN Condemns Laying of Mines in Suez, Red Sea

GF251003 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Aug 84 p 7

[Editorial: "Mines in the Red Sea"]

[Text] The mining of the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea is an extreme example of the increasingly mindless nature of international terrorism. The entire affair is pretty much shrouded in mystery and, in fact, until a couple of weeks back, it was not even certain that there were mines in this waterway. However, the testimony of several ships which were damaged at sea by explosions conclusively brought home the fact that there was something very much wrong in the area, posing a serious threat to the movement of ships. This realisation was followed by steps to sweep the seas for mines, but in the meantime some 20 ships had been damaged in the last month or so, the latest being a Soviet freighter a few days back. What is more, so far there is no clue to who laid the mines. A fundamentalist group styling itself the 'Islamic Jihad' did claim in Beirut that it had laid 192 mines in the Red Sea, but this was brushed aside by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak who said instead that he believed the Libyans had done it. Libya is, of course, not the only country suspected of this act. Earlier, suspicion had also fallen on Iran but that country denied it. After the denial was categorically reasserted by Ayatollah Khomeyni, who said his country had nothing to do with the Red Sea explosions, Iran was considered less of a suspect. On their part, both Iran and Libya have accused the United States of mounting the operation, claiming that America laid the mines in order to justify its military presence in the region. Interestingly enough, the Soviet Union also blamed the United States of laying the mines, saying that it was done to establish its military hold in the area.

The country or organisation which laid the mines may or may not be unmasked eventually. What is certain is that the episode has introduced a new dimension to terrorism — for, that is the only term that can be applied to it. It is to be strongly condemned, for apart from endangering commercial shipping and lives of innocent people, this brand of terrorism serves no purpose at all. As is obvious, mines are no respecters of nationalities and indiscriminate laying of mines in international waters will hurt any ship which happens to come across one.

It is fortunate that so far there have been no fatalities, apart from the death of a seaman, but that is not to say that there would not be any in the future. In fact, with pilgrims ships beginning to sail towards Saudi Arabia from Egypt and other countries in this pre-Haj season, there is a possibility that one or more may encounter a mine, in which case casualties can be feared. One can only hope that minesweeping operations in those waters are successful and remove all or most of the risk — and that in the meantime the unknown culprits do not have an opportunity to plant more mines. All countries should also move to take action against groups or governments, if they are identified, and prevent them from indulging in such deadly games in the future. Endangering innocent people of all nations in this wanton manner is no act of heroism, and if any country or organisation feels that by doing so it has struck a blow for its cause, then it is wrong. Only a few will applaud this act, for most people, whatever their convictions, still hold the view that senseless violence of this nature serves no cause.

BANGLADESH

Government 'Determined' To Hold Fair Elections

BK310314 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has said his government is determined to hold free, fair, and impartial elections. The determination has already been demonstrated in the union parishads [councils] paura sabha [municipal corporations] polls. He was addressing a huge public meeting at the national circuit house maidan [grounds] yesterday afternoon.

The president said politics of the country has undergone a qualitative change which is no longer limited within urban areas. It is now deeply entrenched in the rural areas. Today's Bangladesh means 460 upzillas [subdistricts] and 68,000 villages and [words indistinct] welfare, sovereignty and affinity of the people. He said his government has brought about socio-economic and administrative reforms to make this (?coveted) people-oriented change more successful.

The president said the government has taken priority to the construction of roads and bridges. A bridge over the river [name indistinct] and a road between Silbari and Gobindganj will also be constructed.

Turning to the flood situation, the president said the government has successfully faced the situation and is doing everything possible to relieve the miseries of the flood affected people. He said due to timely and appropriate steps of the government no one has died of starvation. In this context, the president said the government has been successful in reaching the relief material to every flooded people through the decentralized administration.

The president visited Rangpur cantonment and went round different units. He lauded the role of Armed Forces in providing succor and relief to the flooded people. The zonal martial law administrator Zone 8, Brigadier Mahmudul Hassan, accompanied the president during the visit.

Choudhury on Efforts To Solve Border Fence Issue

BK310300 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Bangladesh believes in diplomatic efforts to solve the problem of border fencing peacefully through negotiations. This was stated by adviser for foreign affairs, Mr Humayu Rashid Choudhury, while talking to the members of the Overseas Correspondents Association in Dhaka yesterday. He said history will not look kindly on such a development if it takes place.

Mr Choudhury said he will discuss the matter with Indian leaders during the forthcoming General Assembly session in New York. He said the problem of alleged infiltration could not be so grave as to warrant a step which might vitiate the tremendously good relations existing between Bangladesh and India.

Referring to the Soviet Union, Mr Choudhury said Bangladesh's policy toward that country has not undergone any basic change. He said it will be most natural that the relations between Bangladesh and the Soviet Union will continue to develop and strengthen.

Referring to the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], the foreign adviser said Bangladesh is still a candidate to the post of the OIC secretary general.

On Gulf war, he said Bangladesh as a member of the OIC peace committee is making all possible effort for end to the war.

NEPAL

Soviet Official's Remarks on Afghanistan Cited

BK301539 Hong Kong AFP in English 1358 GMT 30 Aug 84

[By Dedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, Aug 30 (AFP) — Soviet forces will leave Afghanistan when the situation is ripe and when Kabul asks them to depart, Nepalese officials quoted Soviet Foreign Affairs Secretary General Yuriy Fokin as saying here today.

Mr. Fokin made the comment during a meeting with Nepalese Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand during which Mr. Chand stated Nepal's stand that the Afghan issue should be settled without foreign intervention and that the Soviet forces should be withdrawn.

In response, Mr. Fokin said the Soviet Union was prepared to leave at an appropriate time and when the Afghan Government asks them to leave, the Nepalese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Soviet troops moved into Afghanistan in December 1979.

No other details were avialable on the talks on the matter.

Mr. Fokin arrived here Wednesday on a three-day formal visit to exchange views with Nepalese Government leaders on several items to be raised by the Soviet Union during the United Nations General Assembly. He is to leave Katmandu tomorrow for New Delhi en route to Moscow.

The Cambodian issue also was raised during the meeting, with the Nepalese prime minister stating that the situation should be settled as early as possible on the basis of resolutions adopted by the United Nations.

No information was released on Mr. Fokin's comments on the matter.

Mr. Fokin responded "positively" to the possibility of the Soviet Union supporting Nepal's zone of peace proposal, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The propsal already is backed by four of the five permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations including France, Great Britain, China, and the United States.

Mr. Chand also sought the continuation of Soviet economic assistance for Nepal's development.

During separate talks today with Nepalese Foreign Minster Padma Bahadur Khatri, Mr. Fokin stressed the urgent need for better understanding between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, for world peace and disarmament, the officials said.

The two also touched on a wide range of bilateral, region and international issues.

SRI LANKA

Delhi Reports Optimism After All-Party Talks

BK301019 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] In Sri Lanka, both government officials and representatives of the Tamil minority have expressed optimism after 2 hours of discussions yesterday at the all-party talks in Colombo. The Tamil United Liberation Front took part in the talks. The front leader, Mr Amirthalingam, later said that for the first time, they have come to grips with the problem. He said the discussions were healthy and helpful.

The Sri Lankan security minister, Mr Athulathmudali, said the talks reflected a great deal of seriousness and urgency.

Terrorist Group's Plan To Attack Cities Revealed

BK301259 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] There is information of a plan by the Prabhakaran terrorist group to attack Colombo, Madawachchiya, and Padavia while at the same time creating disturbances in the south.

The aim had been to divert the attention of the security forces in the north to these areas. The plan was to have been implemented during the time of the Madras airport explosion.

It is reported to have been linked to a strategy of attacks in an effort to draw [word indistinct] red herring in the current antiterrorist war. This information has been disclosed in a letter sent by Prabhakaran to Dr A.S. Balasingham, the theoretician of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Following a clash between rival terrorist groups, the authorities in Sri Lanka had been able to get the substance of the Prabhakaran letter. If the plan had worked, the Army would have been driven out of the Jaffna peninsula by now. This would have left a way open for the declaration of a socialist state of Tamil Eelam.

When contacted this morning, the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, confirmed this report and added that further investigations are being conducted.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Airbus Hijacking

LD311158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Following the failure to return the hijacked airbus of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its passengers, the following statement has been issued by our country's Foreign Ministry:

In His exalted name

The Iraqi Ba'thist government, which has a long record of aggression, breach of law and international human principles and norms, and terrorist activities, by participating in the recent hijacking added another page to the dossier of its crimes, once again displaying its real face.

Despite the surrender of the hijackers and the complete evacuation of its passengers, the airbus of the Islamic Republic of Iran Airlines, which was hijacked on the Tehran-Shiraz route with the collaboration of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, is still being kept in Iraq, and the Ba'thist government is refusing to return it. This action, which recalls that regime's previous crime in downing the aircraft carrying Mr. Ben Yahia, the former Algerian foreign minister, will certainly not be the last crime committed by the Ba'thist government.

It should be noted that international organizations, such as the United Nations Organization, International Red Cross, International Trade Aviation [as heard] and the International Civil Aviation Organization, have not fully carried out their responsibility in this connection and have refrained from condemning this criminal action. These organizations have only confined themselves to sending telegrams to Saddam Husayn's regime and have not received any reply.

These organizations' refusal to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran fully indicates the direct intervention of world arrogance in this hijacking.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, condemning the terrorist action of the Iraqi Ba'thist government, expresses its regret at the aforesaid organizations' noncooperation and expects all those governments which are opposed to these kinds of terrorist actions to carry out the necessary measures in returning the hijacked aircraft and its passengers to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Release of Aircraft Demanded

LD301417 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 30, IRNA — Islamic Republic Airlines quoted latest reports from international air authorities that Iraqi officials are refusing to give any information on the status of the passengers of the hijacked Iranian plane, nor are they prepared to set a date for their return.

The Iraqis have so far said that the passengers have been placed in Baghdad hotels and they are being sent for pilgrimage to the holy shrines.

In its fourth communique since the hijacking, Iran Air said it will continue its efforts through international organisations.

It further said that the Islamic Republic demands the immediate release and return of Iranian passengers who were taken to Baghdad against their will.

Hijacked Passengers Safe

LD301723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] In its statement No 5, the Islamic Republic of Iran Airlines made the following announcement in connection with the airbus hijacked between Shiraz and Tehran after leaving Dubayy:

According to information received, all the passengers are safe and awaiting the approval of the Iraqi regime to allow them to return to their Islamic homeland.

At present, despite the failure of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime to observe standards for airline flights,as well as its flagrant disregard of international obligations, attempts are continuing through international bodies for the return of the passengers, crew, and aircraft.

Efforts at Release Continue

LD311122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] In its statement No 6 in connection with the hijacked aircraft, the Islamic Republic of Iran Airlines has announced:

Although Iraq is an official member of international forums and dutybound to carry out international obligations to return the passengers, crew, and aircraft, so far it has refused to reply even to international organizations, the ICAO [International Civil Aviation Association] and the IATA [International Air Transport Association], and commercial aviation authorities. The holding of the passengers, crew, and aircraft in Iraq is a naked violation of international commitments repeatedly brought to Iraq's attention by relevant international organizations at the request of civil aviation and the Islamic Republic of Iran airlines.

The statement emphasizes:

The civil aviation organization and the Islamic Republic of Iran Airlines will continue their steps through international organizations until definite results are obtained and will inform the martyr-nurturing Islamic nation of the outcome.

Passengers Used for Propaganda

LD301544 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA — While efforts to free passengers of the hijacked Iran airbus are continuing, reports reaching here indicate that the Iraqi regime is using the passengers for propaganda purposes.

These reports also indicate that the Baghdad regime has ordered that the passengers be taken for a trip to the holy city of Karbala.

The Iraqi mass media are also broadcasting propaganda stories without referring to the air piracy in which 206 Iranian civilians and crew members were taken to Baghdad.

According to the Iraqi press, the Ba'th regime has denied the passengers' demands for freedom but has given each a holy Quran in a bid to present itself in an Islamic outlook.

Other reports said that the passengers have reiterated their demand for freedom according to international conventions and regulations.

Meanwhile, efforts for the speedy release of the passengers is being pursued through international air transport authorities.

Majlis Speaker on Hijacking

LD301122 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30 IRNA — The Majlis speaker, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday criticised international societies for the silence they have kept vis-a-vis issues such as hijacking.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking to a group of visiting teachers and educational officials of the Education Ministry, further referred to the hijacking of an Iranian airbus which was forced by Iraqi fighters to land in Iraq.

He noted that enemies of the Islamic Republic were so furious that they would embark on irrational acts since they were anxious about their future due to the cultural movements of the Muslim societies.

The Majlis speaker also referred to the recent attack of the Zionist regime on a Muslim populated area in Lebanon and said that the Zionists kill Muslims merely for the excuse that they are friends of the Islamic Republic.

But, he stressed, no word will be uttered by the Eastern and Western international circles which has focused their attention on Iran.

In another part of his speech Hashemi-Rafsanjani talked about educational affairs and noted that the enemies of Islam were trying hard to hinder Muslims from reaching the point where all strata of the society were educated people.

To this end, he added, they would suppress Islamic movements in various corners of the world including in Tunisia, Morocco, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Persian Gulf states.

Also, he said, in communist countries such as Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union Muslims were in a state of alert in this respect.

Military Aircraft Taken to Iraqi Territory

LD301127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] Following the piratical hijacking of one passenger airbus aircraft by the fighter planes of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime, this morning — as a part of the propaganda program designed by world arrogance and the regime ruling over Iraq — one military aircraft was stolen [robudeh] and taken to an unknown destination in Iraqi territory.

Undoubtedly, on such days when the blood of the best, most valiant children of the Islamic Revolution is being shed by the most disgraceful criminals in history, on the anniversary of the martyrdom of two noble individuals, Raja'i and Bahonar, the Baghdad regime and its criminal supporters, in trying to blot the ugly names of the criminals from the minds of the martyr-nurturing nation, have resorted to this type of adventurism and futile propaganda. The propaganda programs dictated to the mercenary Saddam Husayn by world arrogance during the past 2 days, hijacking a passenger aircraft and holding the passengers of that aircraft in Iraqi territory despite the protests of international legal bodies, are part of the propaganda conspiracy of world arrogance and its agents.

AFP: Pilot Defector Identified

OW310033 Hong Kong AFP in English 0022 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Paris, Aug 30 (AFP) — The Iranian opposition people's Mojahedin tonight identified the pilot of an Iranian Phantom F-4 that landed earlier in Iraq as a well-known figure in the Iranian Air Force and one of their supporters.

Major Rahman Naghib, who avoided detection by five Iranian radar stations on his flight to Iraq, acted to avenge the execution in Iran last year of his brother, Mohsen Naghib, a spokesman for the Paris-based group said.

The brother was a mujahedin member, the spokesman added.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,835

LD301704 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 30, IRNA — At least 24 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded Wednesday when Iran's Muslim combatants destroyed five armament positions, one munitions depot, one mortar launcher and an anti-aircraft gun of the enemy in the Hajj 'Umran region of the northwestern theatre.

Announcing the above Thursday, the 1,835th Joint Staff Command Communique added that artillery fire was traded between the two sides in the said theatre, being more intense in the Marivan border region during the same day.

It added that an Iraqi patrol group attempting to penetrate the Islamic forces' positions west of the Sumar region of Bakhtaran Province on Tuesday night was immediately routed by the timely fire of the Iranian defenders.

Also, said the communique, another enemy patrol group was smashed by the Iranian forces west of the Meymak region of Ilam Province.

Fire exchanges also persisted in the western border fronts of Ilam and Bakhtaran provinces, raging more severe in the Nowsud region of Bakhtaran Province where engineering activities and movement of armoured columns of the Iraqis were halted by the Islamic forces over the preceding 24 hours.

Enemy fire on the Arvand River banks was silenced by Iran's Gendarmerie forces who also checked the Iraqis' logistical acltivities on the Al-Faw-Basra route.

In these operations. 18 Iraqi bunkers and a lookout post were demolished, an engineering truck was smashed and more enemy troops were killed or wounded.

The communique concluded that the Iraqi long-range artillery fire damaged two more homes and two shops in Abadan's inhabited areas over Wednesday.

Volunteers From Several Areas Head for Fronts

GF310556 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Simultaneously with the sacrifices of Islam's heretic fighters on the fronts of the imposed war, the voluntary departure of various classes of people to the battlefronts to crush the Zionist enemy continues. According to reports, during the past couple of days a large self-sacrificing group from the mobilization department and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Behshahr, Nowshahr, Karaj, Feraydun-Kenar, Kordkuy, Tonekabon, Ramsar, Nur, Kashan, and Golara left for the battlefronts to fight the infidel Saddamists.

Montazeri Receives Commerce Minister, Officials

GF310706 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] According to our correspondent, the minister of commerce and his deputies in domestic and foreign trade met Grand Aytollah Montazeri yesterday. During the meeting, new plans by the Ministry of Commerce were introduced. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: The principle and goal for our officials is the implementation of the laws of Islam and the holy shari'a. We always must bear in mind the interest of the Islamic Revolution and the oppressed and sacrificing nation in our plans and projects.

The presence of certain moods or variations in the mood of the country — should they be present for any reason — must not distance us from the holy Islamic shari'a and the interests of the revolution and the country. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then stressed: If experience and action show that a project is not fully successful, then it should not be pursued any further since, God forbid, this may cause discontent among the people, especially the oppressed classes.

On the subject of foreign trade and distribution, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: What his holiness the imam meant in his recent remarks, and I have stressed this myself in the past, is that the government, to the extent possible, should use the faithful and expert forces of the private sector, merchants, and bazaaris who have years of experience in the technical requirements and details of foreign and domestic trade, commerce, and distribution of goods. The government should not involve itself with affairs outside its area of expertise and beneath its dignity, which force it to use independent personnel hired at heavy cost. The government should give the faithful and expert forces the opportunity to trade within a limitedframework, for the benefit of the country and the revolution. It should not become upset or concerned over the possibility of a group of individuals benefitting from this, since the wealthy, who are religious people,are taxed by the government and also help the poor and oppressed classes, even undertaking many welfare and development services — which should be carried out by the government — in many places for the benefit of the oppressed classes and to please the Lord Almighty.

Addressing the merchants, tradesmen and the bazaaris, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: You brothers should take note of your own position and make sure that, God forbid, you do not become involved in hoarding or profiteering. Do not let the goods that have come to you through the aid of the government and public wealth for distribution among all classes, especially the deprived, be hoarded or their distribution hampered or influenced by discrimination.

Saudi Harrassment of Iranian Sunni Clergy Noted

GF310830 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] Our correspondent in Mecca reports that despite harassment by Saudi security forces, the Sunni ulema from Islamic Iran have played a great role in explaining the achievements of the Islamic Revolution during this year's pilgrimage.

The correspondent reports that the Saudi authorities arrested several Iranian Sunni ulema last Tuesday while the latter where leaving the headquarters of the imam's pilgrimage mission. The Saudi authorities thought they were non-Iranians and took them to a police station. After interrogating them and ascertaining that they were Iranian Sunni ulema, the Saudi authorities released them.

One of the Iranian Sunni ulema said: The Saudi police were very surprised by our presence alongside our Shi'ite brothers at the headquarters of the imam's pilgrimage mission. The Sunni clergyman added: We told the Saudi brothers that the authorities in your country are preventing us from delivering speeches and are preventing our presence in your mosques, whereas we have complete freedom in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: The presence of Sunni brothers in Mecca and Medina mosques has become unbearable for the Saudi authorities. They oppose and are closely watching such a presence. This shows how worried the Saudi authorities are by the presence of Sunni ulema at the headquarters of the pilgrimage mission of Imam Khomeyni.

Paper Criticizes Egyptian Gulf Peace Plan

GF271444 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Aug 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "The Unblessed Plan" [pun on President Mubarak's name] the newspaper *SOBH-E AZADEGAN* reviewed the plan of Husni Mubarak, head of the Egyptian regime, on ending the war imposed on Iran. The paper termed the plan as the outcome of a joint U.S.-Soviet plan following tours and visits by Mubarak to a number of countries.

The paper said that the plan is worse than previous plans proposed by other sides. The timing of this plan coincided with the approach of war week in Iran, the date of the start of the Saddamist aggression against Islamic Iran. This plan also coincided with the meeting of the Arab foreign minister and Chedli Klibi in Baghdad to discuss the possibility of ending the war. The paper says that the articles of the Mubarak plan were recently announced by the Egyptian foreign minister. The articles are: 1) Respect for the independence of the two countries; 2) Return to the borders of 1975; 3) Cease-fire under a special plan; 4) Deployment of international forces to supervise the cease-fire along the borders of the two countries; 5) Paying reparation for losses to the two countries; 6) Beginning negotiations to achieve peace.

If we compare these articles with the plans launched earlier by others, such as the nonaligned countries and the ICO peace committee, it is obvious they are identical to the previous proposals except for changes in expression and terms. Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The demands of Iran are rejected. He talked as if the Iraqi regime and its protectors have the capability to execute their goals and statements. The paper added: It seems that they forgot or ignored the recent admission made by U.S. experts on the failure of Saddam Husayn in the Persian Gulf.

The Mubarak plan, or the Washington-Moscow plan, has repeated such vague articles as sovereignty and a return to the international borders. These articles were violated by Iraq itself. The paper then asked: Can we regard a regime that came to power through a coup d'etat and that does not enjoy any popular support as a national regime?

On the return to the 1975 borders, the paper said: To show how they frankly reject the agreement of 1975, Husni Mubarak and those who dictate to him have come up with the idea of revising the statements made by Saddam Husayn and Sa'dun Hammadi prior to and following the aggression. The paper concluded that the most ambiguous article is the one calling for the stationing of an international force to supervise the cease-fire. The extent of the failure of such actions has been proven to the whole world, and such forces — whether from the West or the East and West — can seldom fulfill their duty.

In southern Lebanon, these forces sided with the Zionists in their massacres against the Muslims, particularly the massacres that were perpetrated in Sabra and Shatila. Moreover, the stationing of such forces spells the creation of a buffer zone and partitioned regions such as Sa'd Haddad'sFree Lebanon. This is one of the outcomes of the stationing of such forces. Therefore, Mubarak and his masters have to realize that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not support the emergence of a new Israel along its border, and it definitely does not need international forces.

KAYHAN on Moscow's Attitude Toward Government

GF241612 London KAYHAN in Persian 9 Aug 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Moscow and the Future of Iran"]

[Text] The uproar that Moscow lately has raised with regard to the so-called "plot to revive the monarchy in Iran" deserves deep and profound consideration.

To begin with, the Kremlin policymakers have not learned the slightest lesson from the eventful history of Iran's relations with Czarist Russia and later with the Soviet Union. During the days of the decline of Iran in the 19th century, those who resided in the Kremlin at that time always tried to impose their agents in all aspects of our nation's political life. But in every case, the end result of their efforts was only failure — the fate of every imperialist power.

The last effort of the Czarist empire to turn Iran into a colony, apparently an independent colony, was the Russian support for the deposed Mohammad 'Ali Mirza'i. The Mirza, who had revolted against the Iranian Constitution, knew that the northern neighbor by showing its claws and teeth would be able to install a dictatorship which had been rejected by our nation.

The victory of the Bolsheviks and the setting up of a government by council had for a short time, due to the realistic policy of Lenin, brought relations between the two neighbors out of a state of perpetual crisis. Iran was the first country to recognize the new Soviet Government. At the same time, Iran and Afghanistan were the only neighbors of the new Soviet Government which did not allow the Western powers to use their territory for aggression against their northern neighbor.

Stalin, the Red czar, soon ignored the policy of Lenin and followed the policies of Peter the Great. The major part of Stalin's dealings with our country consisted of endless violations of our northern border, the setting up of phony communist organizations, including the Tudeh Party, which from the very beginning was nothing but a tool to give Moscow an opportunity to interfere in Iran, and finally the occupation of northern Iran and efforts to make Azerbaijan and Kordestan secede from Iran.

In each and every case, the expansionist policy of Stalin met with failure. The dreams of annexing Azerbaijan — the birthplace and beloved land of its zealous guardians — turned out to be a major tactical defeat for the Red czar. The Tudeh Party, which in the beginning had gained some popularity by chanting progressive slogans and support to the deprived, soon lost its camouflaged face. At present, it is totally discredited.

In the course of the move to nationalize the oil industry, which in fact meant to uproot colonialism from Iran, the Red czar engaged himself in fishing in troubled waters. Everybody knows that the Soviet Union and the Tudeh Party played a major role

in weakening the Mosaddeq regime and in the battle against the British. Moscow and the Tudeh Party, despite the slogans that they chanted against imperialism, only wanted the Soviet Union also to have a bite from the sweet Iranian bread. They wanted to divide Iran into two regions of influence and then to plunder and pillage it. To the people in the West, they said: We do not mind, go ahead and plunder Iran. Let it remain in poverty and hunger, but let us have our share. The disgraceful treaty of 1907 between Britain and Russia, the same treaty which was torn to pieces by the Iranian nation and cast aside, continued to remain as a basis for Kremlin policies.

It is quite possible that some may think that following the "Stalin-wiping" era and after almost 20 years of new relations between Iran and the Soviet Union, Moscow leaders would no longer look into the files of Stalin and the czarist era to frame their new policies. However, it is regretful that the colonialists in their greed and imperialists in their hunger do not take into consideration time and place and go even further than the principles to which they ostensibly profess.

The other point which needs explanation is that the Soviet Union apparently so far has not been able to find a yardstick to gauge changes in Iran. According to the thinking of the Marxists, historical materialism plays miracles in explaining and in justifying the events of the far past and the near present, but in understanding the current changes with respect to contemporary man, it has entirely failed. Undoubtedly, in 1979 the Russians were the last to know that a revolution was about to occur in Iran. *PRAVDA* now warns: "Be careful, the Islamic Revolution is on its last legs! They want to bring back the monarchy." It is the same *PRAVDA* which, a few days prior to the shah's last visit out of the country, was talking about "limited and scattered violence" in Iran.

It is said that Nero played the fiddle while watching Rome burn. The Kremlin theoreticians, while watching the Islamic Revolution in Iran, were turning pages of old books and were working on the dialectic abacus; the more they tried, the less they understood.

Apparently Moscow does not know that the main problem in Iran is not related to the form of government. What is important is the nature of the government. "Velayat-e Faqih," as its supporters openly say, is nothing but a kind of complete dictatorial monarchy. The power of the "Faqih" today in Iran is far greater than the power which Aqa Mohammad Khan Qajar or Bakht-al Nasr wielded. The political struggle going on in Iran today is not a class struggle, although class viewpoint, or dialectics, does exist there. In Iran there are two basic camps fighting each other. On the one hand, the Iranian nationalists say that the nation should determine its own future, on the other hand, internationalists, or the Islamic internationalists, consider themselves and Iran as a part of the outcome of the struggle, that is, the "nation" itself. This is a historical battle which is bound to yield results. It will be this result which will determine the future of Iran, including the form of the future government of our homeland.

In such circumstances, the outcome of the struggle, more than at any time, depends on the willpower, stability, sacrifice, and farsightedness of the Iranian patriots. The war in which the patriots are involved is not a war in which victory can be gained through the machinations of this or that power. The fact is that at this particular moment, the presence of the superpowers in the field of the political life of Iran is more conspicuous by their absence.

Now, let us deal with the particular aspects of the latest uproar raised in Moscow. It seems that the Soviet Union, or at least the editorial staff of *PRAVDA*, seems to think that they have a specific right — a right which they do not have under any rule or regulation or under any circumstances — to interfere in the domestic affairs of Iran. The question of elections or the question of the future form of the Government of Iran is a question which relates only to the people of Iran and that is the end of it. It has nothing to do with the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain, China, or any other country. If *PRAVDA* considers that it has a right to dictate the future form of the government in Iran, then how can it oppose similar claims made by other rulers of the present day world. The Iranian nation when it was poor, illiterate, pessimistic, and crushed under the pressures of deprivations and insults raised its head against the imperialist and colonialist powers and became a trailblazer of freedom, independence, and democracy in the East, which has been oppressed and a victim of colonialism. Now that our country has millions of educated and well-informed men and women, can anyone expect that the future of Iran will be determined in Washington, Moscow, London, or in any other corner of the world by mini-or archplotters? In a country where millions of people, from school children to retired old men, have set their foot to safeguard the land of their forefathers, how can a regime be set up or toppled in such a land by the plots of this or that country?

If the present day Islamic Republic has reached such a stage of moral and political bankruptcy and is continuing its life only through force, money, and by deceiving the general public, then it is not due to the plots of this or that country. The blame lies on the unnatural and anti-Iran system of the "Velayat-e Faqih," which treats the Iranian nation as small children or interdicted people and deprives them of the right to determine their own fate.

If today there is talk of a constitutional monarchy, it is because people compare the past with the present and rely on their own sense of distinction. In this way, the people express their opposition to despotism, lawlessness, insecurity, poverty, famine, brutality, and falsehood.

It is but natural that the nation, just as it has rejected the "Velayat-e Faqih," will not let any foreign power interfere in the domestic affairs of Iran for the sake of their illegitimate interests. A monarchy which is framed in the United States and is exported to Iran will be of no use to the Iranian nation. Similarly, a regime as envisioned by Moscow, which is sure to be something on the pattern of the puppet regime of Babrak Karmal in Afghanistan, can only be exported in the form of a stillborn regime. The United States assuredly knows that Iran is different from Grenada. The Soviet Union, too, certainly knows the difference between Afghanistan and Iran.

Moscow's fear of a return of monarchy to Iran has a deep psychological root. They have not yet forgotten the Bolshevik revolt of October 1917, which should have started in February.

On the other hand, Moscow has seen in practice that the fall of governments in Afghanistan and Iraq opened the way for Soviet hegemony in those countries. The first lesson that the Roman Empire learned through its confronations with various nations was that a nation or community must first be separated from its history so that it can be turned into a colony. A nation which recollects its past with shame and humilation and thinks that it has a poor origin will not consider itself fit for playing a historical role. When the national and historical roots of a country are cut, it can be used as a guinea pig for laboratory experiments.

Moscow knows that the return of monarchy to Iran would by itself block the path of Soviet control — control which the czarists hankered for since the time of Peter the drunkard. The Kremlin theorists know that the "Velayat-e Faqih" is nothing more than a digression and will in the end be closed down. Of importance to the Kremlin is that the situation in Iran should remain, to some extent, shaky and chaotic so that the Soviet Union can plant new agents there to be able to put into practice its long-awaited hegemony in Iran.

However, it would not be a bad idea for the Kremlin policymakers to again cast a glance at their experience in Afghanistan. The fall of the monarchy and coming to power of Daud Khan — who just like the "Faqih" of Jamaran was a riotous prince — opened the way for Soviet recruitment among the middle class people of Kabul, Herat, and Qandahar, and similarly gave an opportunity to Moscow to extend its influence in the Afghan Army. The coup d'etat of Nur Mohammad Taraki was an easy surgical operation. To fly Karmal from Moscow to Kabul and post him as a president was managed as easily as a vodka reception in the Kremlin. But finally, all their calculations turned out to be wrong. Moscow did not take into account an important factor — the Afghan nation does not want to live under foreign oppression and become a guinea pig for the laboratory of the bankrupt theorists.

The Afghan nation has shown that one can go to war against the strongest military power in history with bare hands provided he loves his country and has faith in the noble origin of his nation.

The Iranian nation, too, does not need to prove its worth in this field. It is always ready to face the most difficult trials and will always be able to do so. Iran's future will be determined by its own nation. Our nation will not accept any regime which does not correspond to its own ideals. The Soviet Union or the other nations of the East and West can, on the basis of irrefutable respect for Iranian sovereignty, have useful and friendly relations with our homeland.

Iran does not need guidance from *PRAVDA* or Moscow Radio now or in the future. The message of the Iranian nation to Moscow preachers who are these days raising the cry of "woe be to the revolution" is this: "Whether I am good or bad, you had better look to your ownself."